

REMARKS

In the present Amendment, Claims 1 and 2 are amended to recite that the quantity of the binder used relative to 100 parts by weight of said particulate silver compound is within a range of from 0.78 to 2.36 parts by weight. Support for the amendment may be found, for example, in Examples 1-6 in the present specification.

New Claim 15 is added. Claim 15 depends from Claim 3 and recites that the particulate silver compound is one or more of silver oxide and silver carbonate. Support for the claim may be found, for example, in the present specification at page 4, lines 18-20.

No new matter is added, and entry of the Amendment is respectfully requested. After entry of the Amendment, Claims 1-15 will be pending.

I. Response to the Examiner's Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

A. *The Present Claims are Patentable over Bowns*

In section 1 on pages 2-3 of the Office Action, Claims 1-2, 4 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,877,512 ("Bowns").

Bowns does not disclose or render obvious the conductive composition according to the present claims.

Claims 1 and 2 recite that the quantity of the binder used relative to 100 parts by weight of said particulate silver compound is within a range of from 0.78 to 2.36 parts by weight. By employing an amount of binder within the recited range, Applicants' conductive composition can achieve the unique effects disclosed in the present specification, such as that the "metallic silver particles melt and fuse together" and that "the binder either fills the gaps in woven structure of the silver particles, or covers the surface of the coating, or fills in the gaps in the silver coating and the target surface." See page 9 of the present specification at line 14 and lines 16-18.

Therefore, Applicants' conductive composition is capable of producing a conductive paint with a low volume resistivity and a high conductivity, comparable to that of metallic silver.

With respect to Bowns, the Examiner asserts that Bowns discloses a composition comprising AgCl, Ag-flake and vinylidene chloride (binder). Bowns also discloses "about 6 to about 10.5 parts by weight of a vinylidene chloride thermoplastic polymer," "about 47 to about 57 parts by weight of silver flake" and "about 8 to about 16 parts by weight of silver chloride." See Bowns at col. 1, lines 34-46.

Accordingly, Bowns does not disclose or fairly suggest a composition within the scope of Claims 1 or 2.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the §102 rejection of Claims 1-2, 4 and 11 based on Bowns.

B. The Present Claims are Patentable over Kydd

In section 2 on page 3 of the Office Action, Claims 1-2, 11 and 13-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,882,722 ("Kydd").

Kydd does not disclose or render obvious the conductive composition according to the present claims.

As noted above, Applicants' conductive composition comprising a specific amount of binder relative to the amount of particulate silver compound is capable of producing a conductive paint with a low volume resistivity and a high conductivity, comparable to that of metallic silver.

With respect to Kydd, the Examiner asserts that Kydd discloses an ink composition containing Ag-neodecanoate, Ag-flake and silver colloidal suspension (binder). Kydd also discloses that "the metal content of the colloidal metal suspension can be at least about 10% by weight up to about 50% by weight." See Kydd at col. 9, lines 12-13.

Accordingly, Kydd does not disclose or fairly suggest a composition within the scope of Claims 1 or 2.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the §102 rejection of Claims 1-2, 11 and 13-14 based on Kydd.

C. The Present Claims are Patentable over Dietz

In section 3 on page 3 of the Office Action, Claims 1-2, 4-8 and 11-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,488,082 (“Dietz”).

Dietz does not disclose or render obvious the conductive composition according to the present claims. Applicants’ conductive composition comprising a specific amount of binder relative to the amount of particulate silver compound is capable of producing a conductive paint with a low volume resistivity and a high conductivity, comparable to that of metallic silver.

With respect to Dietz, the Examiner asserts that Dietz discloses a polymeric adhesive composition comprising an inorganic filler including silver and silver resinate powders and an organic polymer resin including epoxy and polyethylene therphthalate. Dietz also discloses “about 10-50 volume percent organic polymer resin” and “up to about 40 volume percent inorganic filler.” See Dietz at col. 2, lines 19-20.

Accordingly, Dietz does not disclose or fairly suggest a composition within the scope of Claims 1 or 2.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the §102 rejection of Claims 1-2, 4-8 and 11-12 based on Dietz.

D. The Present Claims are Patentable over Kodas

In section 4 on page 4 of the Office Action, Claims 1-6, 9-10 and 11-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0124259 ("Kodas").

Kodas does not disclose or render obvious the conductive composition according to the present claims. Applicants' conductive composition is capable of producing a conductive paint with a low volume resistivity and a high conductivity, comparable to that of metallic silver.

With respect to Kodas, the Examiner asserts that Kodas discloses a precursor composition comprising a molecular metal precursor and binders such as epoxy, phenolic resin and polyester. Kodas does not disclose the ratio between the binder and the molecular metal precursor. Further, Kodas does not disclose a composition having the unique effects of Applicants' conductive composition discussed above. Therefore, Kodas does not disclose or fairly suggest a composition within the scope of Claims 1 or 2.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the §102 rejection of Claims 1-6, 9-10 and 11-14 based on Kodas.

II. Response to the Examiner's Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

A. The Present Claims are Patentable over Bowns

In section 1 at page 5 of the Office Action, Claims 7 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Bowns.

As noted above, Bowns fails to disclose or render obvious the conductive composition according to independent Claims 1 or 2. Claims 7 and 10, which depend from Claims 1 or 2, are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency and the additional, independent elements recited therein.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the §103 rejection of Claims 7 and 10 based on Bowns.

B. The Present Claims are Patentable over Kydd

In section 2 at page 6 of the Office Action, claims 4, 10 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Kydd.

As noted above, Bowns fails to disclose or render obvious the conductive composition according to independent Claims 1 or 2. Claims 4, 10 and 12, which depend directly or indirectly from Claims 1 or 2, are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency and the additional, independent elements recited therein.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the §103 rejection of Claims 4, 10 and 12 based on Kydd.

III. Response to the Double Patenting Rejection

On page 7 of the Office Action, Claims 2-4, 9, 11 and 13 are provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as allegedly being unpatentable over claims 1-6 of copending U.S. Application No. 10/500,124 in view of Kodas.

Since the above rejection is provisional, based only upon a pending patent application, Applicants elect to defer addressing the merits of the provisional rejection until the cited pending Application issues.

IV. Claim 15 is Patentable over the Cited References

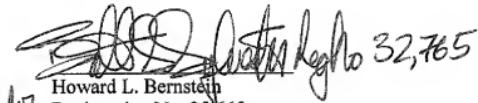
Applicants kindly direct the Examiner's attention to new Claim 15. Claim 15 depends indirectly from Claims 1 or 2 and is patentable at least by virtue of its dependency and the additional, independent elements recited therein.

V. Conclusion

Allowance of Claims 1-15 is respectfully requested. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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